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mustangdaily

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CSUs to accept new students for Winter 2011; Cal Poly still unsure



MANON FISHER MUSTANG DAILY

California State Universities will admit new students for the Winter/Spring 2011 quarters, though they have in previous years neglected to do so. Cal Poly has not yet disclosed whether it will follow suit with the other universities.

Alicia Freeman

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After last year's budget crisis disallowed new student admission in the spring, California State Universities, excluding Cal Poly, will accept new students for the Winter and Spring

ment development, said Cal Poly is one of the only CSUs to not accept new students mid-year up to the year 2000, when the SDSU also "followed suit."

"It has only been recently, mainly through the budget cuts, that the other campuses became impacted, to what extent varies greatly," Mara-

"...We are awaiting fall census data to determine if we will allow for a one-time spring new student allocation."

— James Maraviglia

Associate Vice Provost for Marketing and Enrollment Development.

2011 terms, even though the budget has not yet finalized to sustain them.

According to a press release issued by CSU, this comes after budget cuts last year that "forced ... employee furloughs and workforce reductions, enrollment cuts and increased student fees."

James Maraviglia, associate vice provost for marketing and enroll-

viglia said. "All but Cal Poly though still allowed for large numbers of off quarter admissions until last year."

Though other CSUs like SDSU will be accepting new students, Cal Poly still has doubts with the budget not being finalized and budget problems tracing back to long before last year's budget crisis, according to

see *Students*, page 3

Poly places first, second in aircraft design competition

Kevin List

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Cal Poly's aerospace engineering department took first and second place at the national Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design competition in September.

After winning the event eight of the last nine years and placing in the top three 44 times since its first competition in 1991, Cal Poly's aerospace program has received national attention from elite companies in the industry — many of which use the competition as a recruitment opportunity.

"It helps (aeronautical companies) out because they get to pluck the cream of the crop of our students," faculty adviser Bruce R. Wright said. "It's amazing how many

people get hired during the presentations. Honest to God, last year we had two guys hired before they even left the facility."

The competition is annually sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation (AIAA) and is a year-long process. Students spend three consecutive quarters designing starting in September and ending in June. Entries are judged during the summer before results are announced early September, just weeks before the next year's competition begins.

Cal Poly aeronautical engineering graduate Dominic Surano's team, "Much Better Planes Introduces the Bearodactyl," won first place and a prize of \$2,500. He

see *AIAA*, page 2

NASA gives Poly contract to build satellites

Stefan Ball

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NASA awarded Cal Poly and its CubeSat program its Poly Picosatellite Orbital Deployers, or P-POD, service contract on Sept. 25 as a part of an educational initiative to more efficiently launch small satellites into orbit.

Cal Poly will process an indefinite number of CubeSats for five years and a maximum of \$5 million according to a NASA press release.

The PolySat and CubeSat programs, headed by aerospace engineering professor Jordi Puig-Suari, have been developing for more than 10 years. It originally started as a partnership with Stanford University. CubeSat eventually created an in-

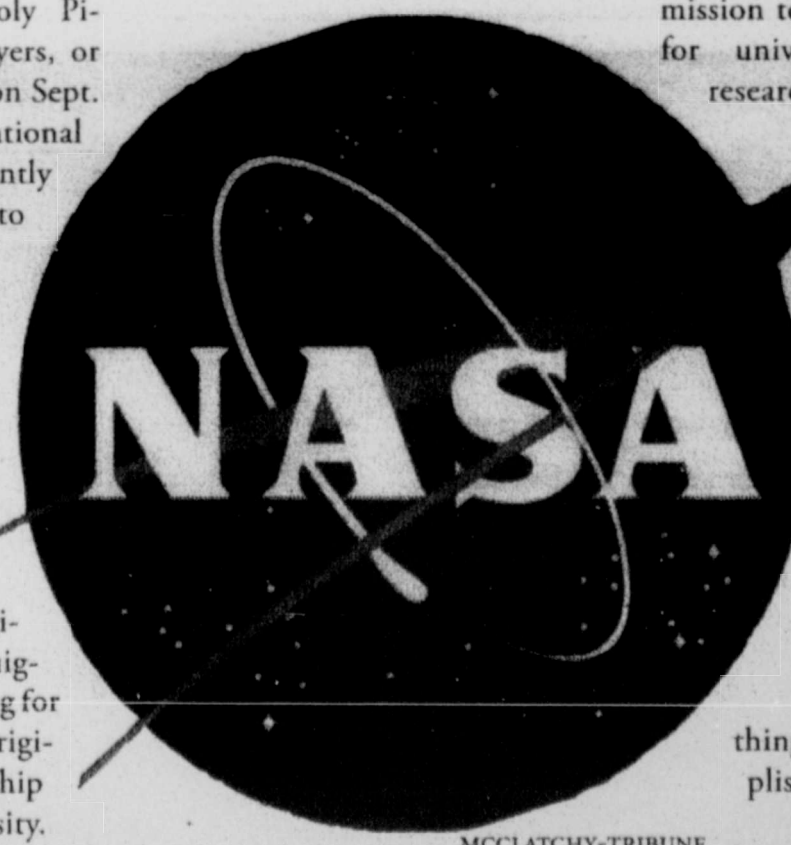
ternationally accepted standard for building a type of research nanosatellite called CubeSats: roughly four-inch cubes launched into orbit by the Cal Poly designed P-

POD. PolySat also makes its own CubeSats.

Cal Poly will be working in conjunction with NASA's Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) mission to provide opportunities for universities to launch research satellites into orbit without extraordinary cost or time commitment. Cal Poly will act as an intermediary preparing outside CubeSats by attaching the P-POD system and then preparing the units for NASA launches. They will also assist with environmental testing in some situations.

"The whole CubeSat thing has been a huge accomplishment but there was one

see *NASA*, page 2



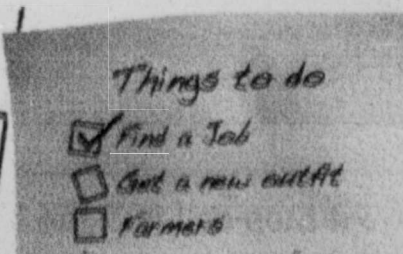
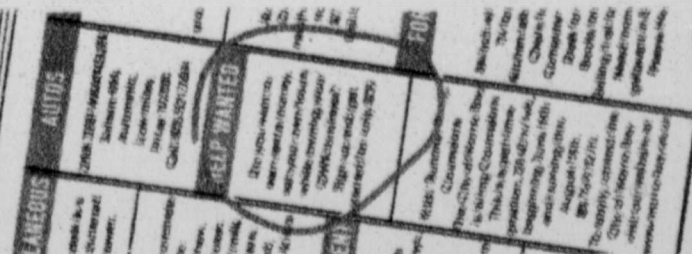
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THE CLASSIFIEDS



AIAA

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said there were several steps toward completing the project.

"We started fall quarter all doing individual designs," Surano said. "This is when the professors really encouraged us to think out of the box. Starting winter quarter, we were put into groups, about six to eight people, to converge together and design one aircraft."

The class, Aircraft Design I-III (AERO 443-445), is for aerospace engineering seniors who know the meaning of hard work and long hours.

"Most of the work is done nights or weekends," Wright said. "I mean, they live in here. By the time we get into winter quarter this is their second home. For the number of credits they get for this course they put in a huge amount of work, far beyond what you would expect is the call of duty."

Last year's design specification,

called a request for proposal (RFP), was a 175 passenger, green replacement for the Boeing 737 using alternate fuels and environmentally friendly aircraft systems.

"What they were trying to do

signing process. Aerospace engineering graduate Brian Borra, whose GFX-50 team finished in second place and won \$1,500, said the most challenging part was collaborating with team members for an entire

tasks to be successful in a competition like this, Wright, Surano and Borra were all quick to point out Cal Poly's advantages.

"We have some pretty unique advantages over most of the other colleges," Wright said. "That is part of our winning formula every year. We get to go talk to real engineers and they give us real feedback on certain things we are doing correctly or incorrectly. And then some of them judge the competition, so we tend to get their input before hand, which is extremely beneficial."

Borra said that Cal Poly also does the coding and analysis on the aircrafts themselves, citing MATLAB as the class' "savior" throughout the year.

MATLAB is a "matrix laboratory" created by MathWorks to aid in numerical computing and programming language for engineering.

One of the most influential advantages Cal Poly teams receive during the year is the assistance of Wright and Associate Professor Dr. Rob A. McDonald.

"We had the perfect balance of real world insight from Bruce (Wright)," Borra said. "He has done everything. It's an honor for him to be giving us input."

Surano echoed Borra's sentiments.

"He (Wright) knows everything there is about every aircraft," Surano said. "He's basically this huge wealth of knowledge. He did everything he could within his power to be able to translate to us and help us with any types of design choices we were making."

This year's design competition's RFP asks for a hybrid airship, which would fit between an airplane and a ship in terms of speed and shipping cost. Again, this is an area Wright is extremely knowledgeable about, and he expects to repeat previous success at the competition this year.

"This year my goal is we win all three places," Wright said. "And they should be able to because I got more knowledge on this subject than the other teachers are going to have."

We have some pretty unique advantages over most of the other colleges.

—Bruce R. Wright
Aircraft Design Faculty Adviser

was: No. 1 get a more efficient engine," Wright said. "No. 2, get a better lift to drag ratio, which is better aerodynamics. And No. 3 is to make it lighter by using composite materials."

Cal Poly had six teams enter the competition this year, all of which faced adversity throughout the de-

year.

"The big thing was time management and the interaction among team members because we had to do it as a whole," Borra said. "We all have ideas of what we want from a plane. As to who gets the final bid in design — that was a major hurdle."

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Students

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Maraviglia

"Cal Poly has been impacted since the late '80s (by budget problems), and, thus, it has managed its impact for years through a fall-only new student enrollment cycle," Maraviglia said. "At this point in time, we are awaiting fall census data to determine if we will allow for a one-time spring new student allocation." By denying new students spring admissions, many students who would apply for spring instead applied for fall, which the press release said caused "a record number of applications and unprecedented demand for admission for Fall 2010."

In addition, some Cal Poly students have resignations from last year's furloughs and limited class sizes. Courtney Wen, a communications studies junior, felt the money should go to more classes.

"Communications classes are always full," Wen said. "We can let more people in, (but the money should go to more classes)."

Sheena Wu, a business administration sophomore, felt allowing students that apply without a secure budget instated misrepresents their chances of getting in.

"That's like giving false hope," Wu said. "They should pay the teachers with that money."

CSUs start-

ed sending out acceptance letters Sept. 27 after extending the deadline from Aug. 31 to Sept. 27 due to the budget not yet being secured.

Sohikish said she remains positive about the opportunity for new students.

"Our university is looking forward to new students in the spring."

If the budget is passed, this will be the first time the CSU restored state funding since 2005. It will put \$305 million toward replenishing a "one-time" cut as well as \$60.6 million for increasing enrollment.

Martin Sohikish, student admissions representative for the San Diego State Office of Admissions, said through Federal Stimulus funds, CSUs will accept a limited amount of students.

"Federal stimulus funds were awarded to the California State University system (which) allows (SDSU) to enroll approximately 1,700 new upper-division transfer students this coming spring," Sohikish said. "This one-time final round of State Fiscal Stabilization Fund dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will allocate \$106 million to the CSU to be divided among the 23 campuses."

Sohikish said that SDSU's allocation is approximately \$8.7 million

NASA

continued from page 1

thing missing," Puig-Suari said. "That was that universities didn't have clear access to space yet. So even though CubeSat had been very successful, there was always this thorn in our side. So this is extremely gratifying."

Both Puig-Suari and NASA's Senior Mission Manager Garrett Skrobot cite the ability for university students to experience all aspects of experimental satellite launch — design, building and flying — within their university career as major motivation for the program and contract. The CubeSat program makes this easier, allowing the entire satellite-creation process to be completed within two years.

"We want to see 22 and 23 year old kids having flown experimental flights," Skrobot said. "Part of my job is to work with universities to make sure we get good science and develop the next generation of scientists."

NASA took applicants and selected 12 CubeSats for its first launch. One of these will be Cal Poly's own CP5 CubeSat, a satellite designed for deorbital research to understand ways to mitigate space junk currently in orbit. Requests for its second initiative will be due Nov. 15. Skrobot hopes to see 50 CubeSats

on that launch.

Cal Poly students will have the opportunity to experience real space flight, as well as to interact with professional members of the industry. This includes non-profit organizations, universities and corporations that want to launch CubeSats. Graduate student Ryan Nugent and mechanical engineering senior Alicia Johnstone will be traveling to Kodiak, Alaska to con-

we were falling behind some of the other countries that made it easier for schools to fly and this kind of puts us back on the forefront."

Aerospace Department Chair Eric A. Mehiel agreed that the contract puts Cal Poly on the industry's radar.

"(PolySat and CubeSat) are doing really interesting work that for a long time was on the fringe of the industry and is really starting to

This shows PolySat and CubeSat are really pushing the industry

— Ken Barclay
Director of Student Life and Leadership

sult with the Air Force on its CubeSat project on Oct. 10.

"It has a huge implication for the country since the GAS can program went away," Puig-Suari said.

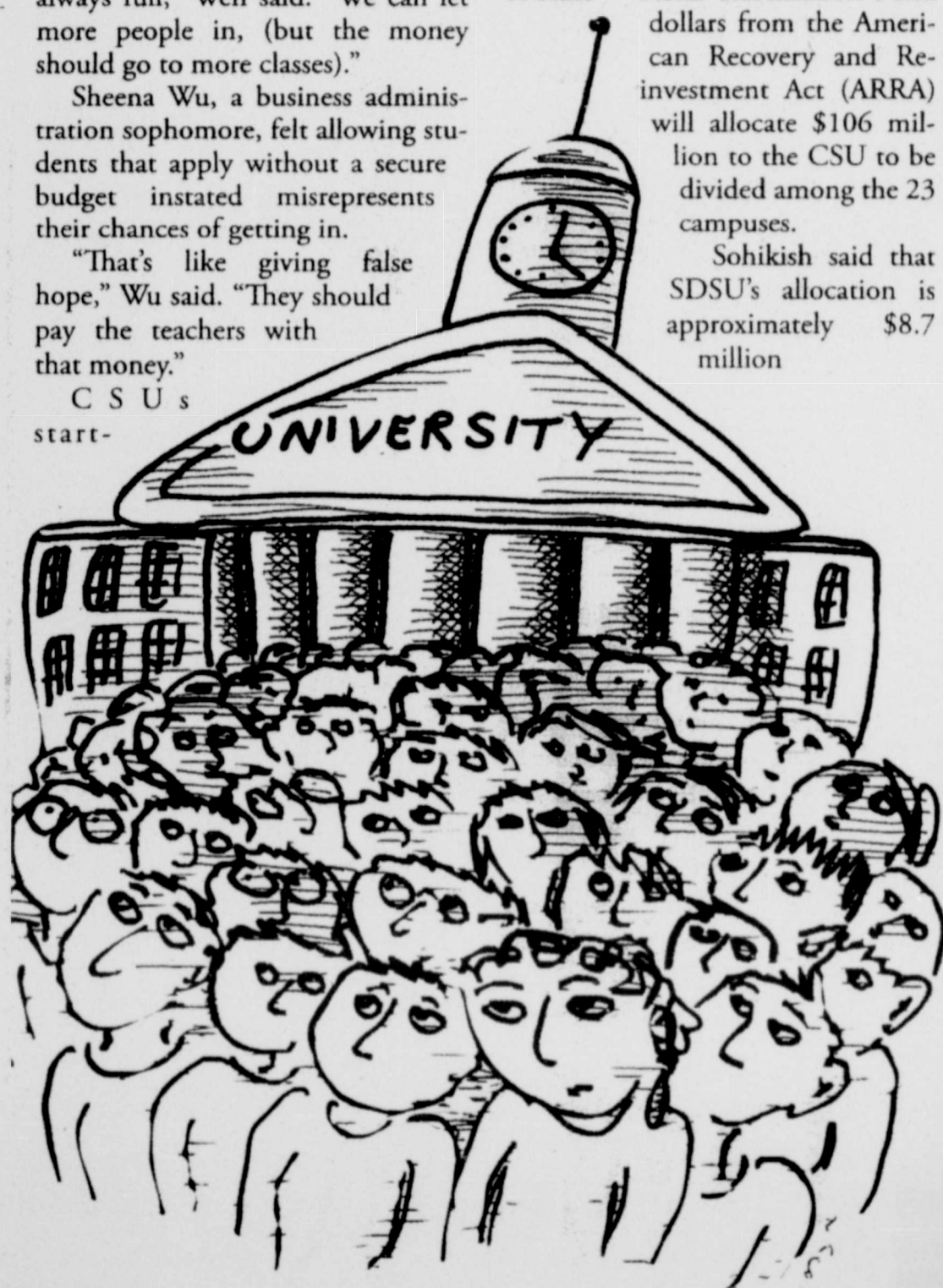
The Getaway Special program allowed groups to launch small research payloads on NASA shuttles but was canceled after the Columbia in 2003.

"There was no well defined access to space for university payloads. People would launch a satellite here and there but it was always someone running on their own," Puig-Suari said. "So in that sense

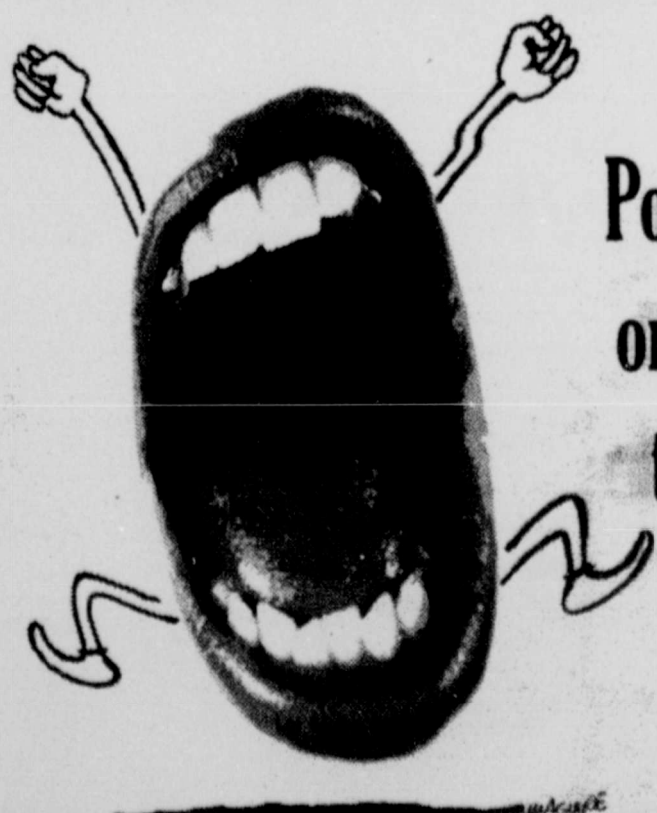
become mainstream. This contract is just an idea of how mainstream," Mehiel said. "Because government agencies tend to be the last on board. This shows PolySat and CubeSat are really pushing the industry."

But now that the project has reached what Puig-Suari said is a sort of "have-arrived" moment, the majority of the next goals for Cal Poly, PolySat, and CubeSat are unknown. Puig-Suari knows one.

"Go fly," Puig-Suari said.



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Briefs

State

REDWOOD CITY (MCT) —

The natural gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people and destroyed 37 homes in San Bruno was Pacific Gas and Electric's fault, a class-action lawsuit claims.

San Bruno resident Daniele Di-Trapani filed the suit in San Mateo County Superior Court and is seeking unspecified damages for himself and others like him.

Echoing a suit filed Sept. 17 by another resident, this complaint seeks to force PG&E to turn over control of the \$100 million victims fund to an independent body.

This is the second class action brought against PG&E in the wake of the blast. It claims the utility's actions or inaction caused the pipe to explode. The complaint says residents have been "contaminated by debris, ash (and) toxins" as a result of the blast and subsequent fire.

...

VICTORVILLE (MCT) —

An Adelanto man said a demon told him to stab his mother, a San Bernardino County Sheriff's investigator testified Monday.

Victorville Superior Court Judge Christopher Marshall ruled after a preliminary hearing there was enough evidence to hold Atraybion Harmon, 21, for trial.

Harmon initially stated he came home and found his mother stabbed in the house. But the evidence didn't match the story.

After about 10 hours, the defendant changed his story. Harmon started talking in a deep voice and told investigators that "a demon told him to stab her."

National

DETROIT (MCT) —

BMW's 5 Series and Hyundai Sonata were the only new-for-2011 vehicles to receive an overall five-star safety rating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's new safety evaluations.

The revised ratings system will assess each new 2011 model for side pole crash testing and crash prevention-technologies.

The only vehicles to receive a 5 on frontal crash safety were General Motors' large SUVs: Cadillac Escalade, GMC Yukon and Chevrolet Tahoe, reinforcing the case that heavier vehicles are safer in head-on collisions.

...

CHICAGO (MCT) —

When Adolfo Romo talked to his sister the afternoon she drove as an extra in "Transformers 3," she didn't sound nervous.

Gabriela Cedillo was among 80 extras and was driving her own car in the westbound lanes of a vacated part of Cline Avenue during the stunt. While she was driving, stunt vehicles were being towed by trucks in the opposite lanes at about 50 mph, according to the lawsuit.

The stunt called for two vehicles to rise in the air and flip "by use of a pulling cable with the idea being to cause violent rolls of the cars involved," her lawyers said.

A lawsuit filed Tuesday claims that improper welding and failure to use appropriate materials contributed to the negligence that resulted in Cedillo suffering permanent brain damage.

International

VIENNA (MCT) —

An heir to the house of Habsburg has called on the European Court of Human Rights to overturn Austria's ban on members of former ruling families running for president, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Because of this constitutional rule, Ulrich Habsburg-Lothringen was not allowed to stand as a candidate for the presidential election in April.

His lawyer, Rudolf Vouk, said the Strasbourg court's ruling would take several years.

Citizens have shown little interest in the campaign of Habsburg-Lothringen, a third-degree nephew of Otto von Habsburg, the son of the last emperor, Charles.

When Habsburg-Lothringen tried to collect support signatures before the election, only some 3,000 voters responded.

...

CHILE (MCT) —

Rapid progress in rescue efforts could result in the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground since Aug. 5 seeing daylight this weekend, government officials said Tuesday.

Three simultaneous drilling operations are under way to reach the miners trapped 2,300 feet underground in the San Jose mine in northern Chile's Atacama Desert. The so-called T-130 or Plan B hole, is advancing at a rate of more than 100 feet a day and could reach the miners in a few more days.

Once the operation begins, the miners are to be raised in a steel capsule weighing nearly half a ton and tied to an enormous winch.

Pakistani terrorist stands before New York court

Geraldine Baum
LOS ANGELES TIMES

During his sentencing Oct. 5 to life in prison, Faisal Shahzad — a Pakistani immigrant who gave up a secure suburban life in America to become a terrorist for Islam — was unapologetic about his botched attempt to kill dozens of people with homemade bombs in Times Square last spring.

After a federal judge declared that he would never leave prison, Shahzad smiled faintly, held up an index finger and declared, "Allah Akbar." U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum did not review parole possibilities because she said there were none.

"You appear to be someone who was capable of education," she said later, "and I do hope that you will spend some of the time in prison thinking carefully about whether the Quran wants you to kill lots of people."

As he did throughout the half-hour sentencing, Shahzad, 31, interrupted her to press his religious viewpoint: "The Quran gives us the right to defend, and that's what all I'm doing."

Last May, on a bustling corner of Broadway in the theater district, Shahzad parked an SUV loaded with three homemade bombs and tried to set them off.

When his attempt fizzled, he returned to suburban Connecticut, where he'd been living off and on since he moved to America to attend college. Authorities tracked Shahzad through the vehicle and the keys he left dangling from the ignition and two days later he was arrested at JFK International Airport aboard a plane that was about to take off for the Middle East.

At one point during the sentencing, Cedarbaum asked whether Shahzad

hadn't taken an oath of allegiance to the United States when he became an American citizen a year before the May 1 bombing attempt.

"I did swear, but I did not mean it," Shahzad said. "Human-made" laws, he elaborated, were corrupt and meant nothing to him because he abided by "sharia," or Islamic law.

"I see," the judge said. "You took a false oath?"

"Yes," Shahzad said.

Shahzad's beard and hair, spilling out from under a white prayer cap, had grown long and bushy since he last appeared in court in late June and announced his desire "to plead guilty 100 times over." Again, Shahzad lectured the judge and a packed courtroom about his guilt:

"If I am given 1,000 lives, I will sacrifice them all for the sake of Allah fighting this cause, defending our lands, making the word of Allah supreme over any religion or system."

He went on to explain how Muslims would never accept having Western forces in their countries fighting on a "pretext for your democracy and freedom." The past nine years of war, he said, had achieved nothing except to awaken Muslims to defend their "religion, people, honor and land."

The son of a retired Pakistani air force marshal, Shahzad grew up mostly in an upper-middle class neighborhood in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

He came to the United States in 1998 as an undergraduate student, and over the years attained many of the trappings of what many here consider a successful life — two university degrees, a wife and two small children, a house in the suburbs, credit cards and a job as a junior financial analyst.



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Obama holds conference on community colleges

Kevin G. Hall
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

President Barack Obama used a special White House conference Tuesday to tout the nation's community colleges as offering a path to the American dream for underprivileged citizens and as essential centers for training the 21st-century work force.

He glossed over, however, the serious funding challenges that these institutions face. Calling community colleges the "unsung heroes" of the U.S. educational system, Obama said that they "provide a gateway to millions of Americans to good jobs and a better life."

Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden, introduced Obama during the first White House meeting on community colleges. She has been a community college professor for the past 17 years and a tireless advocate for the two-year schools.

She spearheaded the daylong event, which brought together educators from across the nation for brainstorming. "Community colleges are uniquely American, places where anyone who walks through the door is one step closer to the American dream," Jill Biden said during an opening ceremony that featured the unveiling of a \$35 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

That donation will set up a grant program for five years whose goal will be to reverse a trend in which roughly half of community college students fail to achieve certificates or associate's degrees.

The White House also announced a new public-private partnership to foster closer links between community colleges and corporate America, labor unions and government agencies.

This effort will try to standardize what has worked best at various schools, particularly in creating certified skills that can be recognized across the nation.

The National Association of Manufacturers has pioneered the concept of national recognition and so-called stackable skills for a modern work force.

Its Manufacturing Institute already is engaged in three national pilot projects, including one in Winston-Salem, N.C., that recently helped convince Caterpillar Inc. to locate a plant there.

Yet the National Association of Manufacturers, which has been critical of the Obama administration on tax matters, was conspicuously absent from the list of invitees. Association officials confirmed the snub but declined to comment.

"I'd say they've been trailblazers," said David Baime, the senior vice president for government relations at the American Association of Community Colleges. His association nonetheless was thrilled to be in the spotlight.

"The event is going to be a red-letter day for community colleges. We have felt for some time that our contributions have not been recognized," Baime said.

"Policymakers are still surprised to learn that over 45 percent of all students in higher education attend community colleges in this country."

Obama challenged the educators to

help him meet his goal of having the United States recoup by 2020 its position as the nation with the highest percentage of college graduates.

"In just a decade we've fallen from first to ninth in the proportion of young people with college degrees. That not only represents a huge waste of potential; in the global marketplace it represents a threat to our position as the world's leading economy," he said.

To meet the president's goal, community colleges will need to have five million students graduate either with associate's degrees or certification required by employers.

That's a lofty ambition, considering that Obama skirted the issue of declining state and federal funding for community colleges. In Texas, for example, community colleges are bracing for the worst as the state faces a huge revenue shortfall.

"We don't know how deep the cuts will be. When you see 30 to 40 percent enrollment growth in the number of students ... what's probably going to happen is a reduction in the (state) appropriation," said Richard Rhodes, who heads El Paso Community College at the Texas-Mexico border.

"We're looking at somewhere in the neighborhood of a 30 to 40 percent reduction in state appropriation per student."

Among his options, Rhodes said, are more belt tightening, tuition increases and scouring the nation for grant money.

Adding to community colleges' problems are an increasing number of enrollment caps at state universities, funneling more high school graduates into two-year schools.

Record enrollment at community colleges occurs as funding from the 2009 federal economic stimulus program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is going away.

"I think there is more uncertainty around state budgets than there was a year ago, with the end of ARRA funding," said Stephen Katsinas, the director of the Education Policy Center at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa.

He's also the coordinator of an annual survey on community college needs. His latest report is due in a few weeks.

One key finding will be that the number of states that offer free tuition to the unemployed is shrinking, a growing problem with the national jobless rate at 9.6 percent.

Last year, 11 states said they allowed the unemployed to attend work force training programs or classes for free. In the forthcoming survey, that number will shrink to four: Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Meanwhile, the number of long-term unemployed nationally — 6.2 million through August — remains at levels unseen since the Great Depression.

"What that tells us is that states are really hurting for funds. For community colleges, work force training is an unfunded mandate, and community colleges get no favored status in Workforce Investment Act policy," said Katsinas, who also wasn't invited to the White House conference.

SeaWorld loses third killer whale in three years to sudden illness

Jason Garcia
ORLANDO SENTINEL

When a SeaWorld Orlando killer whale succumbed to a sudden illness Monday evening, it was the third killer-whale death at a SeaWorld marine park in just four months and the 13th in the past 14 years, according to federal records.

The death of Kalina, a 25-year-old female, followed that of Taima, a 20-year-old female who died giving birth to a stillborn calf at SeaWorld Orlando in June, and Sumar, a 12-year-old male who died last month at SeaWorld San Diego.

SeaWorld said it will conduct a necropsy to determine an exact cause of Kalina's death, a process that will take as long as six weeks. The company has not yet released the results of the necropsies it performed on Taima and Sumar, though it has said Taima's death was directly related to the birthing process.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of any animal. They are part of our family," SeaWorld spokeswoman Becca Bides said. "We take the loss of any of our animals extremely seriously and we are certain that these deaths are not related."

The trio of deaths comes amid what may be the most challenging

period in Orlando-based SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment's nearly 50-year corporate history. SeaWorld has faced intense criticism since the Feb. 24 death of SeaWorld Orlando trainer Dawn Brancheau, who was battered and drowned by one of the company's killer whales.

Brancheau's death prompted the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to fine SeaWorld \$75,000 and recommend that trainers never again be allowed unprotected contact with the orca that killed Brancheau, though SeaWorld is contesting the findings. The tragedy also fueled criticism from animal rights activists, who argued that the attack was the result of stress endured by killer whales in captivity.

The recent orca deaths have provided more ammunition for critics. Killer whales in the wild typically live much longer than Kalina, Taima or Sumar; females have a life expectancy of about 50 years and can reach 80 or 90 years of age, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service, while males live for about 30 years and can reach 50 or 60 years old.

According to Fisheries Service records, 13 killer whales have died at SeaWorld's marine parks in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio

since 1996. The animals ranged in age from less than 1 year old to approximately 23 years old. The causes of death have included multiple cases of pneumonia, encephalitis and gastrointestinal ailments, according to the records.

Naomi Rose, a senior scientist at the Humane Society of the United States and a longtime critic of SeaWorld, said the deaths of Kalina, Taima and Sumar — all of whom were born in captivity — suggest that captive-born animals fare no better than wild-caught ones.

"There's something about the whole confinement and space and lack of family ... that the stress is just pervasive," Rose said. "It may be at a low level, but it's persistent and low-level stress can be very dangerous over the long term. And they're not living very long."

SeaWorld, which was sold last fall by beer giant Anheuser-Busch InBev to the Blackstone Group, currently has 23 killer whales in its corporate collection, including four it has loaned to Loro Parque in the Canary Islands and one it has loaned to Niagara Falls, Ontario, and one it has on loan from the Barcelona Zoo. Six orcas are at SeaWorld Orlando.

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Iraqi government remains in a record-breaking period of deadlock

Jane Arraf

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

A flurry of proposals has led to considerable movement in Iraq's seven-month political deadlock, but neither Iraqi nor U.S. officials are counting on an imminent announcement ending Iraq's epic struggle to form a government.

As the country lurched into the history books with one of the longest delays in government formation ever after holding elections, followers of hard-line Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced that they'd withdrawn their opposition to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and would back him for a second term.

The turnaround by the Sadr movement, the biggest bloc in parliament, brings al-Maliki within four seats of the majority he needs to form a coalition.

However, the other major requirements for a workable government — inclusion of the main Sunni parties and of the Kurds — have yet to be met.

"There are some ideas out there to bring the leaders together to have them talk through how best to achieve an inclusive government," the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, James Jeffrey, told reporters Tuesday.

He said that Iraqi as well as U.S. officials think that an inclusive government needs to include Ayad Allawi, the leader of the largely secular Iraqiya group that's backed by many Sunnis and the Kurds.

Jeffrey, speaking on the sidelines of a U.S. trade mission to Iraq, said that while there appeared to have been "considerable movement" over the past two weeks, he couldn't predict when a government could be formed.

Seven months after Iraqis went to the polls, a tumultuous mix of ethnic and sectarian aspirations along with personal egos and ambition has kept political leaders from forming a coalition.

A leading member of the Iraqiya bloc, Ezz al-Deen al-Dawla, said that the parties are still at "square one." He predicted that it could still take more than two months to agree on a government. Widespread opposition to al-Maliki, even among his Shiite coalition, has presented further obstacles.

Although he remains popular in the street, the Shiite prime minister is accused by his former political allies of acting like a dictator — taking decisions such as sending the Iraqi Army into the southern city of Basra — without consultation.

The deadlock has continued even though a new parliament must address key decisions such as revenue sharing, the future of disputed territories and passing a budget.

The Kurdish alliance, whose seats in parliament could play the decisive role in determining who ultimately becomes prime minister, has said it will back whichever party makes the strongest guarantees to protect Kurdish interests and has been negotiating with all of them.

U.S. officials have said that they'd support al-Maliki as head of a diverse government, but the prospects of the Sadrists as a major player in a purely Shiite coalition is a nightmare scenario for the United States.

Before announcing a cease-fire in 2004, al-Sadr led his paramilitary forces — the Mahdi Army — in the biggest challenge to U.S. troops since Saddam Hussein was toppled.

Jeffrey said the U.S. Embassy had been assured that reports the Sadrists had made a deal to back al-Maliki in exchange for several government ministries and other concessions, including prisoner releases, were untrue.

However, in the clearest public comments made yet reflecting the U.S. unease over the prospect of the Sadrists taking a key role in government, Jeffrey warned that they could jeopardize the democratic process.

"The problem that we see and that others see here is that there is not clarity in whether the Sadr movement is a political movement or it is an armed militia which carries out political objectives through violent means," Jeffrey told reporters.

"We would urge our Iraqi friends to be cautious in the kind of positions that they leave open to anyone who has not made clear their position ... any group that cannot distinguish between peaceful political processes and violent intimidation, violent attacks and the threat of violence is a problematic partner for the democratic process," he said.

Researchers discover new language in India

Amina Khan

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A previously unknown language has been uncovered in the far reaches of northeastern India, researchers reported Tuesday.

Koro, a tongue brand new to the scientific world that is spoken by just 800 to 1,200 people, could soon face extinction as younger speakers abandon it for more widely used languages such as Hindi or English.

Koro is unlike any language in the various branches of the Tibeto-Burman family, a collection of 400 related languages used by peoples across Asia, according to the two National Geographic fellows who announced the discovery.

The findings will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Indian Linguistics*.

The researchers, linguists K. David Harrison of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Gregory D.S. Anderson, director of the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages in Salem, Ore., said they are not sure yet how old Koro is or how it developed.

Until now, the speakers of Koro had remained invisible to outside observers because their bright red garments, the rice beer they made and other details of their lives seemed no different from the speakers of Aka, the socially dominant language in the region, Harrison said.

"There's a sort of a cultural invisibility — they're culturally identical in what they wear, what they eat, the houses they live in ... they just happen to have a different word for everything," Harrison said.

Koro also blends in because speakers frequently intermarry with speakers of Aka (who number 4,000-6,000) and another tongue, Miji (6,000-8,000). And because the villages had been effectively cut off from the outside world for so long, the languages in the region remain poorly studied.

"I expect that there are many such hidden languages around the world," said Paul Lewis, editor of the 16th edition of "Ethnologue: Languages of the World," Lewis who was unaffiliated with the work. "The lesser-known languages quite often are overlooked and understudied."

Anderson and Harrison, together with their Indian colleague Ganesh Murmu, came across Koro by chance in 2008. They previously had identified this part of India's Arunachal Pradesh as a hotspot of language diversity.

After obtaining a permit to visit the area, they rode for two days in Himalayan foothills and then crossed a river on a bamboo raft to get to the remotest of the villages.

The researchers had been told of the so-called dialect of Aka.

But when they sat down to record the words of a villager they assumed to be speaking it, they were surprised by the unfamiliarity of the words and could tell this was no mere dialect.

"We noticed it instantly," Anderson said. "We started with a body-part word list, and there wasn't a single word in common." After further study, they realized that Koro was not only a language in its own right, but also one as different from Aka as English is from Russian.

The linguists say there are still many mysteries they hope to unravel — such as why the speakers don't seem to notice how vastly different their languages are, and how the Koro speakers, who seem to blend in with Aka speakers in every other way, have managed to preserve their language as a distinct entity for so long.

The answers, said the linguists, are probably related to the community's relative isolation from the rest of the world.

Now globalization is ending that isolation — and it may end Koro's existence, too.

In many families, the parents will speak Koro while the children speak Hindi, the politically dominant language in India. Few Koro speakers are under age 20.

The announcement comes in the same year that India lost the last speaker of Bo, one of the world's oldest languages.

The endangerment of languages like Koro threatens more than a loss to history, anthropology and cognitive studies, Harrison said: Speakers in remote regions of the Earth that contain rich ecological diversity hold knowledge as yet untapped by science.

"They've learned to live sustainably in harsh environments. The knowledge they have about the medicinal use of plants is uniquely encoded in a way that cannot be translated," he said.

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Word on the Street

What do you think of your professors' availability this quarter, i.e. office hours?



"They're pretty available, their office hours work with my breaks."

— Ariana Johnson, architectural engineering freshman



"My major is pretty good when it comes to teachers being available."

— Mary Ann Shart, fruit science senior



"They seem pretty good about office hours, I haven't gone yet."

— Paul Donat, environmental engineering freshman



"They give you options about office hours or let you make appointments."

— James Murakami, industrial engineering sophomore



"I think they've all been good about being available."

— Steve Furger, aerospace engineering junior



"I really like all my teachers this year, they're all good about being available."

— Jasmine McDermott, business administration sophomore

White House to install solar panels on roof to supply power to first family

Renee Schoof
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The most famous house in America is going solar.

The White House soon will have solar panels to supply the first family's hot water and some of its electricity, the Department of Energy announced Tuesday.

It's not yet clear whether the panels will be visible to tourists from below, but environmentalists and clean energy advocates hope that the buzz will give solar a boost, just as first lady Michelle Obama's vegetable garden got more people buying seeds.

The White House solar panels will be a demonstration project to show that "American solar technologies are available, reliable and ready for installation in homes throughout the country," the Energy Department said in a statement.

"This project reflects President Obama's strong commitment to U.S. leadership in solar energy and the jobs it will create here at home. Deploying solar energy technologies across the country will help America lead the global economy for years to come," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a state-

ment.

Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org — a campaign to find climate change solutions in communities around the world — said in a statement that the White House "did the right thing."

"If it has anything like the effect of the White House garden, it could be a trigger for a wave of solar installations across the country and around the world," he said.

President Jimmy Carter installed 32 solar panels on the roof of the White House above the Oval Office in 1979 to heat water in the staff kitchen, according to the National Museum of American History in Washington, which acquired one of them. President Ronald Reagan removed them in 1986.

McKibben obtained one of the old White House panels and drove it from Maine to Washington last month, trying to push the administration toward taking action on climate change.

After Tuesday's announcement, White House officials said solar had been in the plans since the early days of the administration.

Chu said in a blog post Tuesday that the new solar panels would be on the roof by the end of next spring.

The Energy Department will take bids from companies that want to install the panels and water heater. Among its criteria will be how well a company "showcases American technology, products and knowhow," said Christine Glunz, a spokeswoman for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

The department expects the solar-powered system to produce about 19,700 kilowatt hours of electricity a year.

Based on Washington commercial rates, that would mean an electricity bill savings for a typical household of \$2,300 per year. The additional savings on hot water would be about \$1,000.

The department is investing in the next generation of solar power, and it says that innovation and new technologies will make solar energy cost-competitive with conventional electricity across the country.

Solar today generates less than 1 percent of the nation's electricity. The costs of photovoltaic panels have been declining, however.

The solar industry says that scaling up the use of solar would lower the cost further and make it competitive with coal and natural gas.

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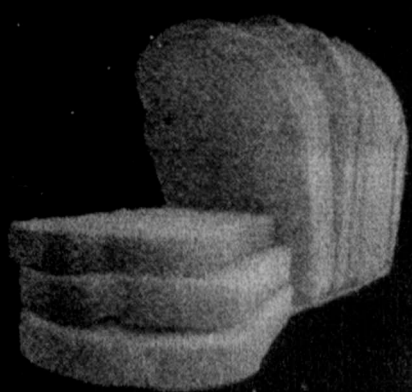
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Art project creates picture perfect downtown

Marisa Bloch

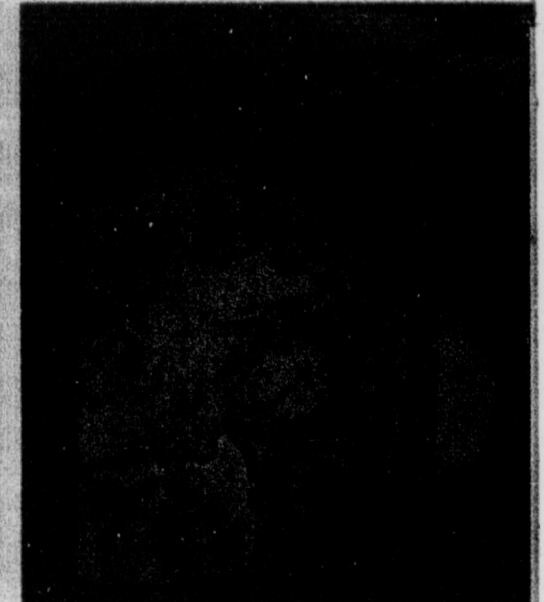
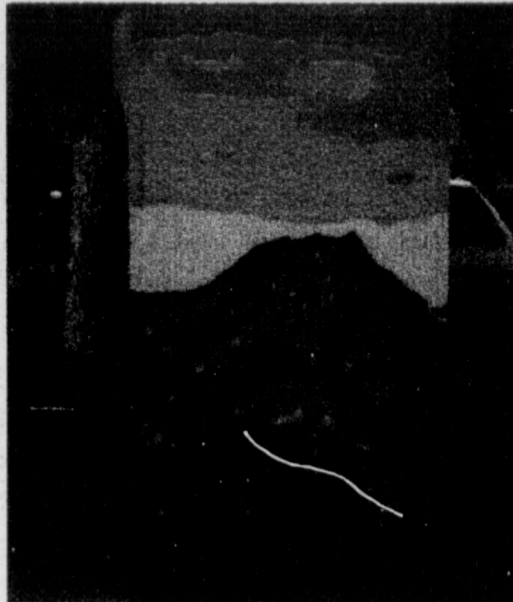
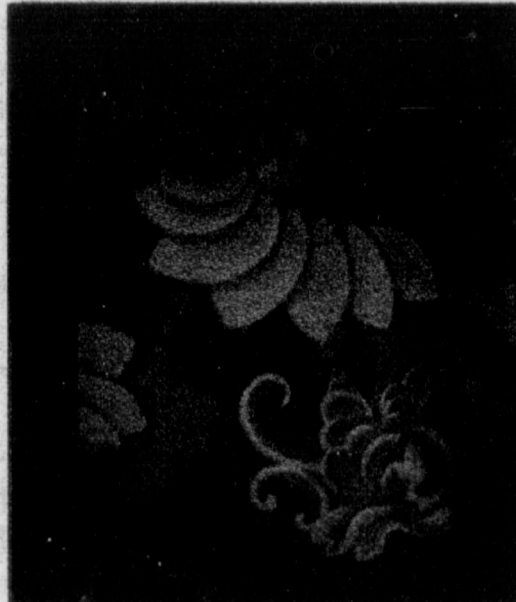
MARISABLOCH.MD@GMAIL.COM

Thirteen artists were chosen to paint on utility boxes spread out over downtown San Luis Obispo.

Deborah Cash, head of the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association, was present during the downtown festival that highlighted the artists in action as they painted 16 utility boxes on Saturday, Sept. 25.

"The BoxArt Festival was a huge hit as people really enjoyed walking to the different boxes and watching the artists in action as well," Cash said. "Kids had a lot of fun painting their own (cardboard) boxes on Garden Street."

In 2009, members of the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association



Utility boxes in downtown San Luis Obispo were painted by artists in the BoxArt Festival on Saturday, Sept. 25, run by the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association.

attended a conference in Ventura, where the program is supported. They all said downtown San Luis Obispo would benefit by having

more local artist work downtown, in order to help the beautification process of the city.

In January 2010, the beautifica-

tion process of downtown began.

"It's a joint project between the Downtown Association and the city of SLO," Cash said.

The jury and the public art coordinator made the decisions on where artworks would be featured in the city, based on the artists they selected.

The artists selected underwent an interview procedure with a jury through the public art process.

The selection process was very extensive and competitive.

"Submitting an application for the BoxArt program was also tough — they needed lots of paperwork: examples of past work in a power point presentation, references, bio, resume, etc. They were very specific," said Colleen Gnos, one of the chosen local artists. "Plus we had to design

a rendering without knowing if we would be picked to paint a box. We could submit three renderings, but I only had time to create one."

Gnos ended up painting something that paid a tribute to the 15-foot octopus her grandfather killed in 1946 as a deep sea diver. She said she had to pick something that she would be able to paint quickly.

Gnos said having only eight days to paint was a big challenge, especially when the weather was not cooperating.

"Two of the days it was 114 degrees — it was tough to keep my paint from drying on the brushes," Gnos said.

Despite the challenges, Gnos said it was a great experience to paint downtown.

see Downtown, page 10

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'It's Kind of a Funny Story' premieres Friday

Calvin Wilson

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden have collaborated on some of the most acclaimed films of the past decade. "Half Nelson" (2006), their penetrating portrait of a drug-addicted junior high school teacher, earned Ryan Gosling an Oscar nomination for best actor. And "Sugar" (2008), about a Dominican baseball player and his quest for success in America, was just as insightful as it was absorbing.

Although both films scored with critics, who were impressed with their originality, neither attracted audiences beyond the art-house crowd. But with the comedy-drama "It's Kind of a Funny Story," opening

Friday, the married writing-directing duo just might break through to the mainstream.

The film boasts a strong supporting cast that includes Zach Galifianakis ("The Hangover"), Emma Roberts ("Hotel for Dogs") and Viola Davis ("Eat Pray Love"). Still, its greatest asset is Keir Gilchrist ("United States of Tara"), who turns in a potentially star-making performance as Craig Gilner, a smart but mixed-up teenager who checks into an adult psychiatric ward.

With their latest film, Fleck and Boden are primed to make the transition from independent-film stalwarts to Hollywood power players in much the same way as Spike Lee ("Inside Man"), Martin Scorsese ("The Departed") and Steven Soder-

bergh ("Ocean's Eleven").

In a recent phone interview from Boston, however, the duo emphasized that whether their films may be categorized as indie or mainstream films is secondary to getting them made.

"It's tough," Fleck said. "But we

just stuck with it, and we've been very lucky."

Fleck and Boden met on the set of a student film at New York University. After working together on documentaries, they made the short film "Gowanus, Brooklyn," which won a prize at the 2004 Sundance

Film Festival and was a precursor to "Half Nelson."

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" is based on Ned Vizzini's young-adult novel. But the screen version was also inspired by the films of writer-director

see Funny, page 11



picture of the day
by Krishna Agatep

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Downtown

continued from page 8

"People were honking and yelling nice things at me about my art while I worked. It was good exposure," Gnos said. "All day long I gave directions to lost Cal Poly students, fed homeless people and listened to their stories while I painted."

The community members seem to be reacting well to the new art.

"The boxes are a really interesting asset to downtown," said journalism senior Katie Ferber. "It's a great way to get the community involved while making it prettier."

Other community members took pictures with camera phones in passing.

The Downtown Association said they chose to paint utility boxes since they were so plain before. The project also deters graffiti by eliminating blank areas.

"This project most likely set a record for the short time frame in which it was accomplished and that the city was very supportive in including this project in one of its major city goals of downtown beautification," Cash said.



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Sex Column

Nose woes: sex and nasal troubles



It is an obstacle I first encountered in eighth grade during a date to the movie theater with my boyfriend at the time — so romantic, I know.

Don't ask what movie we saw or how crowded the theater was, all I know is we paid to sit in a corner and kiss for the duration of the film — you'd be lying if you said you never have. It was during said make-out session that I learned the nose plays a large role in how these escapades play out.

The nose presents itself as an obstacle in the kissing world, forcing a person to tilt their head one direction, which is then counteracted by their partner tilting their head in the opposite direction.

This can lead to a kink in the neck if the session lasts for an extended amount of time with little room for

The nose presents itself as an obstacle in the kissing world.

— Karlee Prazak
Sex Columnist

movement. It can also be a symptom of a bad kisser who lacks skill in creative movements.

By now, it should be common knowledge to college students that variation is key to successful kissing. It keeps the other person guessing what's next and yearning for more.

For some, the nose is a more prominent facial feature, but nobody is completely nose-less, so learning to work with the schnoz is a must.

A friend turned me on to a nose-gone-wrong story and peaked my interest in how much punch this facial feature can pack. It turns out, when people least expect it, their nose can go rogue.

Depending on how intimate the situation is, there are varying levels of offense. So, I will use a movie-style rating system — in honor of my first

nose. Accusations of bloody and broken noses were argued over but dismissed; then came the text. The next morning girl received a text from boy confirming that blood was shed. He found the evidence crusted onto his pillow — laundry anyone?

• PG-13: It may not be the most common technique, but it can have abrupt repercussions. I am talking about utilizing the nose while going down on a girl. According to my sources, midway through the job the urge to sneeze can suddenly take over. The next thing you know, you're wiping more than just sneeze off your face.

• R: This should be a cautionary tale to all who desire fellatio while nursing a cold. It appears as though when you combine a runny nose with oral sex it leads to a leaky orifice. In laymen's terms: there once was an ill girl who blew and ended up with a nose full of goo.

• X: To be honest I couldn't find a real life account of this happening, but it is hopefully a matter of time until I do. Either way I feel the need to say that the ultimate nose-gone-wrong story would be breaking a nose during the dirty. Just imagine it, one thing leads to another and a position change is attempted when — BAM — elbow to the face triggers a flood of blood and a trip to the emergency room for a nose realignment.

It is impossible to predict events like these; they are situations to be dealt with when the time comes.

The best advice I can give after consulting with my sources is to be comfortable with the person you're with. This way, if the romance goes awry, there will be minimal awkwardness because humiliation can be agreeably cast aside.

Otherwise, carry tissues.

Karlee Prazak is a Mustang Daily copy editor and journalism junior.

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Funny

continued from page 9

John Hughes — particularly "The Breakfast Club" (1985), in which five teens, each representing a high-school stereotype, are forced to deal with each other during a stint in detention. Hughes' other teen-oriented works include "Sixteen Candles" (1984), "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986) and, as a screenwriter, "Pretty in Pink" (1986).

"Those were some of our favorite movies to watch growing up," Boden said, "When we read the book, we thought it was such a great opportunity to do something like that, in that vein."

Like Hughes' films, Fleck said, Vizzini's book "dealt with teenage issues from a teen perspective — not through an adult lens, looking back with a hint of cynicism or sarcasm." Accordingly, "It's Kind of a Funny Story" unreels from Craig's viewpoint. While struggling to deal with his depression, he becomes involved with some of his fellow patients — including Noelle (Roberts), to whom he becomes attracted despite her physical and psychological scars, and Bobby (Galifianakis), who's generally friendly but given to mood swings.

Galifianakis, who is soon to appear in "Due Date" opposite Robert Downey Jr., was something of a casting coup.

"He'd seen 'Half Nelson' and really liked it," Fleck said. "He's a comedic actor, but he has tastes that range from indie films to more dramatic films. So we met with him, and he was such a charming and warm guy that we thought it would be great if

he could put some of himself into the role."

Gilchrist, who recently turned 18, lends the film just the right note of anguished honesty.

"We were really searching for somebody who was a teenager," Boden said. "We didn't want the 22-year-old just out of college, pretending like he was 16 or 17. Keir was just so genuine and real and blew us away with what a serious actor he was."

Stylistically, the film is more adventurous than Fleck and Boden's previous work, allowing room for whimsical cutaways that may remind film buffs of the work of director Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("Amélie") while mostly remaining in a conventional mode.

"The novel is told from a first-person point of view," Boden said. "It's very subjective — we get to go inside Craig's head — his flashbacks and his projections and his fantasies. So that was really exciting to us, since our first two movies were so grounded in reality."

Although "It's Kind of a Funny Story" has a lighter tone than audiences have come to expect from Fleck and Boden, their three films are thematically linked. Like disaffected schoolteacher Dan Dunne in "Half Nelson" and displaced ballplayer Miguel "Sugar" Santos (Algenis Perez Soto), Craig is a charismatic but conflicted outsider.

As filmmakers, Fleck said, he and Boden are interested in "people who are looking to make sense of a very complicated world, and find a place where they feel comfortable. Which definitely isn't easy for most of us."

Having passion for life is said to help fuel relationships

Judi Light Hopson
Emma H. Hopson, R.N.
Ted Hagen, Ph.D.

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Do you work with someone who has lost their enthusiasm for living?

You know how this goes. This person simply hides out at work, doing the absolute minimum to get by.

Or, do you live with a mate who talks gloom and doom? The world has come to a halt for him or her. Nothing you say will move your beloved to enjoy life.

People who have lost their passion for life pervade our society.

Each of us can easily fall into that rut. We can get so burned out over our daily grind, it takes a fork-lift to get us out of bed every day.

But, if we can find a way to get some of our spark back, this is going to benefit all of our relationships — including that important relationship we each have with ourselves.

"Keeping a spark and passion for living is like a good drug," says a male nurse we'll call Sam. "I worked with a boss at a major hospital who sat in the corner and became a zombie at least two years before he retired."

Sam says his boss caused the rest

of the staff to become angry and to feel cheated. If the phone rang, this dispassionate boss stayed frozen until someone else answered it.

Plenty of people need to feel alive again. This past decade, especially, has not been easy for our society at large. It's been referred to in the media as a difficult 10 years — referred to in Time magazine as "The Decade from Hell."

Many of us need to get our joy back. We need to focus on what's good in the present.

These tips can help:

- Work on your physical health program. Get tested for a full range of issues from a sluggish thyroid to diabetes.

- Study inspirational materials. Read the works of people who have a good perspective on life. Let their words teach you how to avoid pessimism.

- Look back at prior goals. You can lose your spark if your life goals got sidetracked over the years. Review how you might go back and pick up where you abandoned your dreams.

"My husband sat around for two years, just sulking," says a woman we'll call Janette. "He lost his job, and he just gave up on life."

Janette finally helped her husband

get moving again. She bought CDs of his favorite songs from the 80s, and a guitar at a flea market.

"He's learned 50 songs at least," says Janette. "When he got invited to play at a barbecue, a man there offered him a job. Who'd think strumming guitar would land you a job?"

"Reflect on good memories," says a woman we'll call Suzy.

Suzy, who's 60, went through a divorce a year ago. She crashed mentally for six months.

"One day I found pictures of an old boyfriend, and my sister started talking about how much fun we all had back then. I'd been thinking of suicide, but once I started reflecting on how great simple things are — like eating a burger and fries — I got some of my joy back."

Suzy starting running and now runs four miles a day. What's odd is her ex started running, too.

Like one of those crazy movies where people are running and they run into the love of their life coming toward them, Suzy did.

"He's single again, and we're dating!" Suzy says. "Isn't that unbelievable? It's like my thoughts pulled him toward me, and here he is!"

Joy is like a magnet. With enough of it, we can open some very pleasant doors.

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"Look at this one, its legs go up."

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WTF! Texting and driving worth no one's life

"Border collie jill surveying the view from atop the sand dune." Those were the last words of Malibu plastic surgeon Frank Ryan, best known for "reconstructing" reality TV star Heidi Montag. It's not quite up there with "Et tu, Brute?" Yet it seemed important enough for him to text it just before driving off a cliff in August. Jill survived.

We don't know what the message was in a 2007 accident involving the sender and her four fellow New York high school cheerleaders. But it probably wasn't worth slamming head-on into a truck, killing them all. And the 2008 Chatsworth train collision, in which 25 people died and more than 100 were injured, was officially attributed to the engineer of the Metrolink commuter train being distracted by text messaging.

Unfortunately, laws intended to deal with the problem of texting while driving, a major topic at the Transportation Department's Distracted Driving Summit on Sept. 21, reflect vital misunderstandings about why a cellphone combined with a moving vehicle can be so deadly and how to deal with it.

Texting while driving can be more dangerous than driving while swigging Jack Daniels, according to studies. In a 2009 survey, Car and Driver magazine tested two of its staffers under a variety of conditions. It found that on average, driving at 70 mph, one man braking suddenly while legally drunk (0.08 blood alcohol content) traveled 4 feet beyond his baseline performance. But reading an e-mail while driving sober, he traveled 36 feet beyond the baseline result and 70 feet while sending a text. In the worst case while texting, he traveled 319 feet before stopping.

Yet 66 percent of respondents to a 2007 Harris Interactive poll admitted they've texted while driving, even as 89 percent said it should be banned. And it's the youngest drivers, who already are in far more than their share

of road accidents and deaths, who do it most, according to government and insurance industry reports.

There are no reliable studies regarding deaths associated with

Wobegon. Hence the belief that we need to ban thee but not me.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's idea of putting cigarette-pack type warning labels on cellphones is a s

worthless as it sounds. We don't need text education. We need legal coercion. Yet 20 states still don't ban texting and driv-



JENNIFER KOHNKE NEWSART

driving and texting.

But consider that in 2002, when texting was still a novelty, cellphone usage killed an estimated 2,600 Americans, according to a study by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. Yet texting and driving is 17 times more dangerous than just talking on a phone, according to a 2009 Virginia Tech study. And we sent about 15 times the number of messages in 2009 as we did in 2005, according to one wireless industry report.

One possible explanation for why we can't seem to keep our paws off those tiny keyboards is that surveys show that a vast majority of American drivers believe themselves to be above average — and not just in Lake

ing, and only eight plus the District of Columbia ban talking on hand-held phones while driving. None ban hands-free phones.

However, the mere existence of laws alone is not enough. Almost

twice as many Californians in a new Automobile Club of Southern California survey say they now use cellphones while driving than admitted to doing so before it became illegal 20 months ago. And texting laws in four states surveyed have done nothing to reduce reported collisions, according to figures released by an affiliate of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Why? Penalties are a joke and enforcement is essentially nonexistent. A first offense is merely a \$20 fine in California, and \$50 for subsequent violations. By contrast, a first DUI conviction in the state carries a jail

sentence of four days to six months, a fine as high as \$1,000, a six-month license suspension and more.

Enforcement efforts are virtually nonexistent because everyone thinks it's so difficult. Yet equipment that detects outgoing radiofrequency signals is neither new nor cost-prohibitive and no more invasive than traffic control cameras, radar or radar detector spotters. But even such low-tech "equipment" as human eyeballs can work. Results from two pilot programs released Tuesday by the Department of Transportation show that. During a yearlong test, using a combination of public service announcements and programs in which officers were specifically watching out for drivers using cellphones, hand-held cellphone use while driving dropped 56 percent in Hartford, Conn., and 38 percent in Syracuse, N.Y.; texting while driving declined 68 percent and 42 percent, respectively.

"The laws are simple to enforce," says Jennifer Smith, president of Focus Driven, patterned after the highly effective Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Yet none of this will have any effect if we don't recognize that the specific cause of the distraction "isn't your hands or eyes but your head," as University of Illinois cognitive scientist Daniel Simons puts it.

"Texting requires you to take your mind off the road." Indeed, hands-free phones may induce a fatally false sense of complacency "if you falsely believe that you will notice what's on the road while focusing attention on your phone or a keyboard," Simons adds. That's why studies repeatedly show hands-free phones to be just as dangerous as hand-helds.

But current state laws universally allow hands-free phones, except in a few places for certain categories such as teens and bus drivers. And yes, there are voice-to-text apps that allow verbal text messaging, which some promote as a safer alternative.

For now, all you can do is control your own conduct, including downloading software that automatically blocks outgoing messages while turning off alerts for incoming ones. No message is worth dying for.

Michael Fumento is an author and attorney who specializes in health, science and safety issues. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Write a letter to the editor!

Please include your name, year and major!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com



The Mustang Daily has a really weird passion for writing stories about crappy back-up quarterbacks.

— *The Wildcat*

In response to "Just win baby: The Tony Smith story"

Don't move your family to the ONE part of town where loud noise and parties occur. The real estate prices in the 1 mile radius from campus are so jacked up any ways I don't know why a family would want to live there in the first place.

— *Jay*

In response to "Noise Ordinance: fair to students or targeting the college population?"

Actually, a psychic vampire is not "negative all the time" and doesn't "suck the life out of you because they always have problems." If you would have taken the time to research your argument a little more you would have learned that psychic vampires are simply individuals who lack the ability to create their own sustainable energy. Even a full night's sleep doesn't give them the rest they require therefore they "feed" off the energy of others, it has nothing to do with them being negative or always having problems. Before you comment on something you might wanna do some research and LEARN about what your arguing against that way you don't sound like such an ignorant prat.

Get off your high horse; don't attend something if you don't want to support it but don't bash it or knock it simply because YOU don't like it. Just because YOU don't believe in something doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

— *Tara*

In response to "Vampire advocate to speak at Cal Poly"

yawn

Anyone who listens to Loveline already knows this. This isn't newsworthy at all. The "author" of this "article" needs to go back to English class and learn how to write and find a topic that's actually interesting.

This is just a rehash of a million other articles a million people have already written better.

How did this trite, ridiculous article even get published? Oh yeah the Mustang Daily is desperate to try to be "current" and "trend setting."

Excuse me while I go read a paper that actually doesn't try so hard and fail. They should stick to writing about events, not putting some haphazard "sex column" together. No one wants to read this crap.

— *Melissa*

In response to "The Secret Life of Squirrels"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.

Recent church sex allegations nothing we haven't heard before

The controversy stemming from recent allegations that Bishop Eddie Long, pastor of a megachurch in the suburbs of Atlanta and a married father of four, enticed at least four male teenagers into having sex with him, revives memories of numerous scandals that have plagued religious leaders over the years.

If the charges contained in the lawsuits filed against Long are true — and he says through his attorney that they are not — it would be behavior reminiscent of disgraced evangelical pastor Ted Haggard. His double life was exposed in 2006, when a male prostitute disclosed that Haggard, then president of the National Association of Evangelicals, had been a regular customer for three years.

Mike Jones, the male prostitute, said he came forward after learning of Haggard's true identity. He said, "It made me angry that here's someone preaching about gay marriage and going behind the scenes having gay sex."

Haggard was forced to resign as president of the evangelical group and his Colorado Springs-based New Life Church.

A survey conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life in 2002 showed that while Americans have become more accepting toward homosexuality in recent decades, Americans are significantly less tolerant than other democracies, including France, Britain, Italy, and Germany. A Pew poll last October found that African Americans, who are considerably more religious than other groups, are much more likely to consider homosexuality morally wrong (64 percent) than whites (48 percent) or Hispanics (43 percent).

The prominent religious leaders who have fallen from grace evidently view the Ten Commandments as the Ten Suggestions.

In 1986, Jimmy Swaggart exposed a rival Assemblies of God minister Marvin Gorman for carrying on an extramarital affair with one of his parishioners. A year after taking Gorman down, Swaggart discredited Jim Bakker, another rival who had cheated on his wife, Tammy Faye, while on an out-of-town trip.

Bakker was also accused of

paying \$265,000 in hush money to Jessica Hahn, his onetime secretary, who said she was raped in 1980 by Bakker and another PTL (Praise the Lord) preacher, John Wesley Fletcher.

The PTL empire disintegrated after Bakker was convicted in 1989 for defrauding millions from people who had purchased \$1,000 life memberships in hotels that were never built at his Heritage USA theme park. Bakker served five years in prison.

Gorman, who was kicked

Swaggart told his members, "The Lord told me it's flat none of your business."

What makes the charges against Bishop Long so egregious is that he has preached against homosexuality and in 2004 led a march to support a national constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

In his lawsuit, Jamal Parris, one of the men who claimed that Bishop Eddie Long lured them into having sex with him, said Long performed covenant ceremonies at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., with young

er man's wife, I'm that David. You read about Noah, who got drunk — that's me. You read about Lot, who went and laid up with his own daughters. I have to fulfill all of those things."

The Rev. Henry J. Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, was evidently fulfilling his sexual desires in a \$700,000 house he shared in Tierra Verde, Fla., with Bernice Edwards, a convicted embezzler whom he had hired as the group's public relations director. But that extramarital affair came to a halt in 1997 when Lyons' wife, Deborah, set the house on fire.

A subsequent investigation into Lyons' personal life and finances ended in his being convicted of grand theft and racketeering. A jury found that he had swindled more than \$4 million from companies that wanted to market credit cards, life insurance,

and cemetery plots to his organization.

Lyons served a 5-year Florida state sentence, a concurrent 4-year federal sentence, and was ordered to make \$5.2 million in restitution to the companies he cheated.

A different kind of cheating has occurred in Roman Catholic churches around the world. In the United States, 10,667 people accused U.S. priests of sexual abuse from 1950 to 2002. The church has paid more than \$2 billion in settlements.

Although other institutions, such as Congress, Boys Town, and the

Boy Scouts, have been rocked by sex scandals, religious leaders are held to a higher standard.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (King James) reads, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you."

Clearly, we did not know those over us in the Lord as well as we thought.

George E. Curry, former editor in chief of *Emergence* magazine and the *NNPA News Service*, is a keynote speaker, moderator and media coach. He wrote this for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0901

- Across**
- 1 Lost-and-found containers
 - 5 It has rings on its team
 - 9 Brown shade
 - 14 "Got it"
 - 15 Sauce brand
 - 16 Subway station sign
 - 17 Like a sunken treasure?
 - 20 Third of December?
 - 21 Gp. with the platinum record "A New World Record"
 - 22 Systems of principles
 - 23 Ice cream flavor, briefly
 - 26 Secretary on "The Office"
 - 28 High place near Aberdeen?
 - 34 One in custody
 - 35 Breakfast cupful
 - 36 Like most bathrooms
 - 37 Spanish bear
 - 38 "The Wizard of Oz" weather event
 - 41 Eastern V.I.P.
 - 42 "Amazing!"
 - 44 One fawning
 - 45 Gift tag word
 - 46 Restraints for writer Flagg?
 - 50 James who sang "A Sunday Kind of Love"
 - 51 Like some textbooks
 - 52 Complain
 - 55 Grecian art object
 - 57 Creepy
 - 61 Cooking instruction hinting at this puzzle's theme?
 - 65 Thingy
 - 66 A.L. or N.L. division
 - 67 ____-a-brac
 - 68 Look of superiority
 - 69 Cry from Charlie Brown
 - 70 When sung three times, part of a Beatles refrain
- Down**
- 1 Places for double dribbles?
 - 2 Golfer Aoki
 - 3 Hasbro product
 - 4 Not yet paid for, as a mailed package
 - 5 Shot put's path
 - 6 Kilmer of "Real Genius"
 - 7 Kind of arch
 - 8 Centers
 - 9 Consume
 - 10 Tablets site
 - 11 Partner of pieces
 - 12 Part of 51-Across: Abbr.
 - 13 Some wines
 - 18 Number after seven
 - 19 Honker
 - 24 Eight: Prefix
 - 25 Singer with a Best Actress Oscar
 - 27 Loving
 - 28 Olympic skater Cohen
 - 29 Bonk
 - 30 2008 Beijing Olympics mascot
 - 31 Irish county north of Limerick
 - 32 Building set
 - 33 Mild cheese
 - 34 Pound sound
 - 38 Dweeb
 - 39 Super-duper
 - 40 25%-off price, e.g.
 - 43 What Shakira or 25-Down goes by
 - 45 Passes quickly
 - 47 French CD holder
 - 48 "Silas ____"
 - 49 Julia Child, for one
 - 52 High-performance wheels
 - 53 Thor's father
 - 54 Wood shaper
 - 56 Org. with Divisions I, II and III
 - 58 Exceptional
 - 59 Pelvic bones
 - 60 Mark permanently
 - 62 ____ favor
 - 63 Pres. initials
 - 64 Periods of extra mins.

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Zamora

continued from page 16

not do.

"Education was important because it gives you different perspectives and the tools to approach life and hopefully be successful," Zamora said. "I always knew I wanted to study a degree and get a good education, but I also love sports so I was trying to do both."

Zamora said he was relieved to not play on Costa Rican reserve teams. Even playing one minute of game time would make him ineligible to play any collegiate sports.

From his first moments he put on a Mustang soccer jersey, Zamora would hold a pivotal role in men's soccer's most recent success.

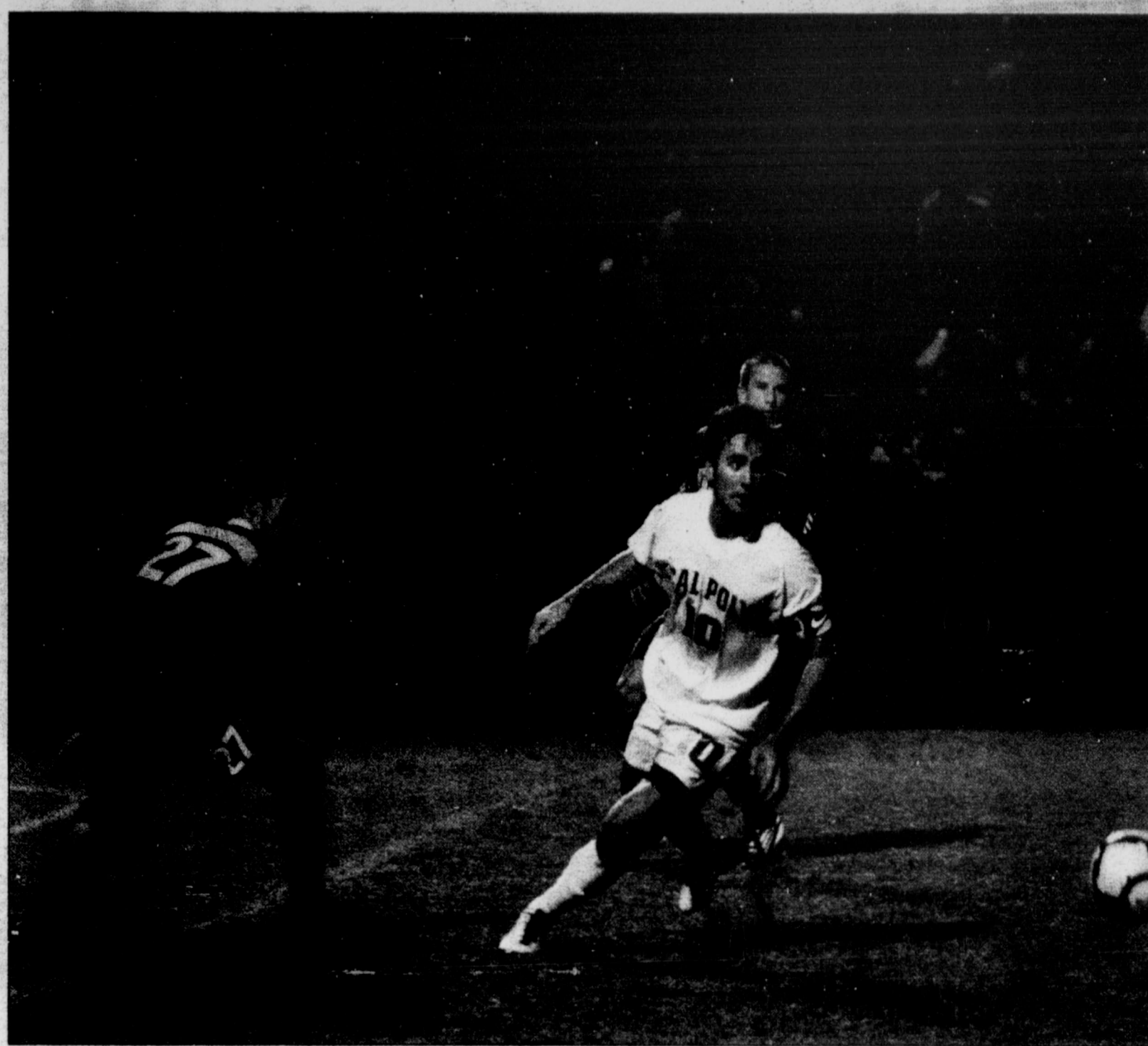
The first game of his freshman year in 2007 Zamora faced California in an exhibition match, and what would be one his proudest moments.

"I was really kind of anxious to play my first college game," Zamora said. "The coach was telling me it was going to be really physical and something that I had never seen before. I was really very nervous."

It didn't take long for Zamora to become acclimated with his new team. He calmed his nerves and drew instant recognition of his soccer skills, scoring three goals en route to defeating Cal.

That game was the beginning of what would be a dominating career at Cal Poly for Zamora.

In his first three full seasons, Zamora has made first or second team All Big-West, while leading



In Zamora's first three full season at Cal Poly, he made either first or second All-Big West teams.

the team in points every year and scoring the most goals the last two seasons.

But despite his personal achievements, Zamora said the accomplishments he is most proud of have come with the team.

"Being part of a new program with Coach Holocher, we've been setting a lot of records with attendance, home winnings, being ranked freshman year in the top 10 in the nation," Zamora said. "It's been setting records with the entire

team and getting to seeing all the payoff for the work you're putting in as a team."

Head coach Paul Holocher, who entered his second year as coach when Zamora joined the team, appointed him team captain his senior

year based on the skills he demonstrated.

"He brings a senior leadership to the team," Holocher said. "He's played a lot of games, a lot of tough college games, and produced some great goals in those times. Physically he's a big strong player that has the ability to get on the end of crosses and the ability to hold the ball up for us and produce goals."

Senior Junior Burgos said Zamora is a role model for the team.

"He's a very responsible, disciplined person," Burgos said. "He is usually the one that says every weekend that we need to take care of ourselves and take care of our school work. He makes sure that every single day we are doing the right thing and doing the things we are supposed to."

In the little free time he gets away from soccer, Zamora enjoys being outdoors, especially at the beach or playing sand volleyball.

After he graduates, Zamora hopes to utilize either his soccer skills or business administration degree to play professionally or return home and help the family business.

But whether on or off the field, Zamora strives to achieve his highest potential, he said.

"Everything you do, you put in your maximum effort so you don't have any regrets after it," he said. "On the field, give 100 percent because if you don't give it 100 percent after the game's over — and the 90 minutes are gone — you start thinking about the play. 'I should have done this, I should have done that.' If you do your best, you don't have anything to regret."

Singletary: 'The last thing I'm thinking about is my job security'

Carl Steward

THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Mike Singletary acknowledged Monday that questions about his job security are "the nature of the game" after the 49ers' 0-4 start. But in the same breath, he maintained he isn't the least bit worried about them.

"Players have responsibilities and if they don't do their jobs certain things happen," he said. "Coaches have responsibilities and if they don't do their job, things happen. My mind doesn't focus like that. I don't worry about who I need to talk to, am I OK. These 53 guys, that's my responsibility. The last thing I'm thinking about is my job security."

ESPN's Adam Schefter reported in the wake of the 49ers' 16-14 loss at Atlanta on Sunday that Singletary's job is safe through the remainder of this season, but perhaps only because there is no adequate replacement on the current staff. Schefter's report added that Singletary could be fired at season's end even if the coach rallies the 49ers to a playoff spot.

Singletary maintained he isn't paying attention.

"The most important thing that I'm thinking about is where this team is going, the direction of this team," he said. "As far as all that other stuff, there are coaches right now that are riding pretty high and at the end of the season, their job will be in jeopardy."

The coach also said despite the deep hole the 49ers have dug for themselves, he remains optimistic.

"My high hopes, they haven't gone anywhere," he said. "I mean, there are still high hopes. We're 0-4, but we have a lot of football games to play. The way our team's playing, I'm very encouraged by what I see. I'm very encouraged by what I hear our guys talking about and where their focus is. ... The last thing I'm doing is sitting around thinking, 'Oh man, I've got these problems. I got this, I got that.' I'm thankful that I have problems to deal with."

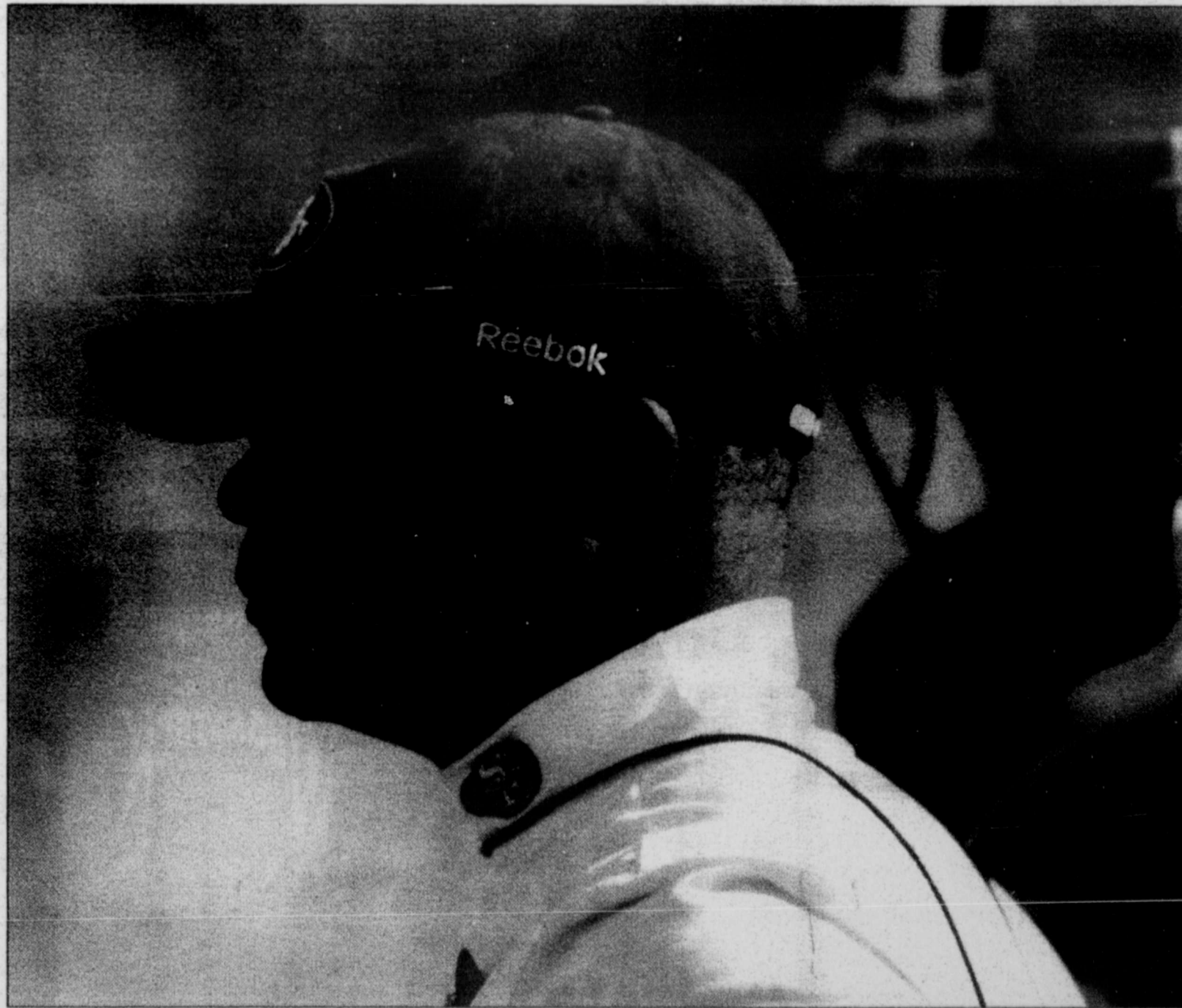
There's not much sweet about being 0-4, but there are factors that can keep the 49ers hopeful. First, the other three teams in the NFC West are just 2-2, and the 49ers still have five division games to play. Second, the 49ers play the next two games and four of the next six at home, along with a road game against winless Carolina and a neutral-site game against Denver in London.

Lastly, when Philadelphia comes to town Sunday, it's possible the Eagles will be without quarterback Michael Vick and running back LeSean McCoy, both of whom suffered rib injuries in a loss at home to Washington this past weekend.

When someone suggested to Singletary that the schedule could be softening, however, he bristled.

"I don't ever say the schedule is softening, because the minute you say something like that, you set yourself up for failure," he said.

After his disastrous interception-and-fumble play that gave Atlanta a second chance to win the game, cornerback Nate Clements left the



MCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

After all the expectations surrounding the 49ers this offseason, Mike Singletary and the 49ers are still winless this season.

locker room without speaking to the media. He was in a better frame of mind Monday after being consoled by Singletary and his teammates on the plane ride home.

"It stung a little bit," Clements said. "I made a great read on a play

and if I just hold the thing high and tight, like the coaches emphasize, we wouldn't even be talking about this right now."

Clements understands he probably should have touched down with the ball, but he instinctively tried to

make a play and thought he was safe from tacklers.

"When I caught the ball, I didn't see anybody but the quarterback (Matt Ryan), and I had three blockers," he said. "So I was just trying to advance the ball for the offense."

David Zamora brings Costa Rican talent to Cal Poly

Jerome Goyhenetche

JEROMEGOYHENETCHE.MD@GMAIL.COM

From the earliest moments of his life, senior forward David Zamora was raised with a soccer ball at his feet. Born in Costa Rica, where soccer is the national sport, Zamora received a collection of soccer balls as his first gifts from family before he could even walk.

"Over there (soccer) is our main sport, so as soon as you can walk you start playing," Zamora said. "I've always been way better with my feet than I am with my hands. (Soccer is) the sport I loved growing up, it's the sport that I saw and I have a passion for the game."

His biggest motivation to play came from the person he looks up

to most in the world — his father.

David's father, owner of Zamora's family construction business, "Pedregal," in Costa Rica, always encouraged him to play soccer and took him to practice at the park every Sunday.

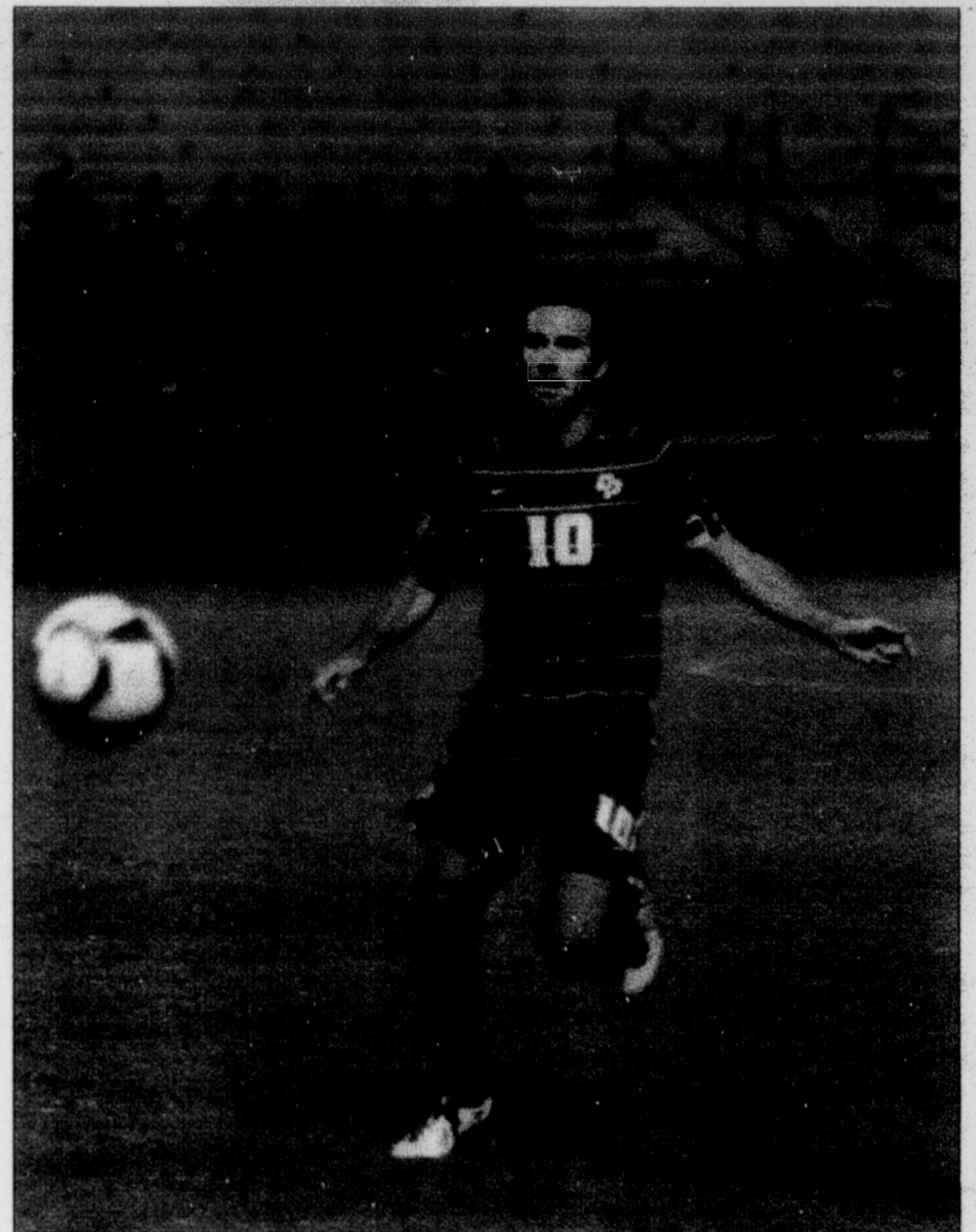
"My father saw that I had talent

mind and I hold that in my heart."

One of the most important things his father taught him, when the family business suffered after false accusations from the Costa Rican government, was to resist pessimism and persevere through adversity — something that stuck

Everything you do, you put in your maximum effort so you don't have any regrets after.

— David Zamora
Men's soccer forward



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Forward David Zamora is one of five international players on the Cal Poly roster.

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1	9	5	7	4	8	3	2	6
7	4	2	3	6	9	5	8	1
8	6	3	5	1	2	7	9	4

and he supported me all the way to now," Zamora said. "Even though he was always busy with projects that he was managing, he always made my games when I was in school. I really love those times when he was cheering me on from the stands and driving back to my house after the game and just talking about the game and how proud he was of me, and talking to me about plays I made. That memory sticks in my

with Zamora.

After playing for his primary and secondary school soccer teams, Zamora had a chance to play for the reserve team for two of the biggest professional teams in Costa Rica: Saprissa and Alajuela. He tried to continue with his education in Costa Rica, but time conflicts forced him to choose between soccer and school; something Zamora could

see Zamora, page 15

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